



JANUARY 24, 2026



HOSTED BY



LOCATION HOST



Southern Connecticut State University
Pelz Gymnasium
488 Fitch St.
New Haven, CT 06515

WELCOME

On behalf of the Gaylord Sports Association and the Gaylord Warriors Wheelchair Rugby Team, welcome to the **Battle of the Northeast Wheelchair Rugby Tournament!**

We are thrilled to welcome the Northeast Passage Wildcats, the Western New York Wreckers, USWRA officials, and our dedicated volunteers from Southern Connecticut State University, Gaylord, Quinnipiac, and the broader community. We also extend a warm welcome to all spectators joining us for an exciting weekend of competition.

We are especially proud to bring this tournament back to Connecticut for the first time since 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. With its return, we are excited to reintroduce the event under a new name, Battle of the Northeast. This year also marks our first time hosting the tournament at Southern Connecticut State University, in partnership with the SCSU Institute for Adapted Sport and Recreation. We are equally pleased to collaborate with Northeast Passage to help make this event possible.

Events like this would not happen without the generous support of our tournament and program sponsors. Through a combination of grants, sponsorships, and fundraising efforts, their commitment helps create meaningful competitive opportunities for adaptive athletes.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers for your time, energy, and dedication. Your support plays a vital role in helping athletes pursue their goals of fitness, teamwork, and healthy competition. Thank you for the many ways you contribute to making this weekend a success—you truly make a difference.

The Gaylord Sports Association is a program of Gaylord Specialty Healthcare and has been providing adaptive sports and recreation opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments for over 30 years. We invite you to learn more about our programs and how to get involved by visiting www.gaylord.org/sports.

Good luck to all the athletes—we hope you enjoy the tournament!

Yours in sport,

Katie Joly, CTRS

Gaylord Sports Association Program Manager



TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Game 1: 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Game 2: 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Game 3: 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

COMPETING TEAMS



GAYLORD WARRIORS



***NORTHEAST
PASSAGE WILDCATS***



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY OVERVIEW

Wheelchair Rugby is a fast, physical, mixed-gender Paralympic sport for athletes with disabilities affecting all four limbs. A unique sport created by athletes with a disability, it combines elements of rugby, basketball and handball on a basketball court where players use specialized manual wheelchairs to carry the ball across the opponent's goal line. Contact between wheelchairs is an integral part of the sport as players use their chairs to block and hold opponents.

To be eligible to play Wheelchair Rugby, individuals must have a qualifying disability. Most players have spinal cord injuries with full or partial paralysis of the legs and partial paralysis of the arms. Other disability groups who play include cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, amputations, polio, and other neurological conditions. Men and women compete on the same teams and in the same competitions. Players are assigned a point-based sport classification based on their functional ability

which ranges from 0.5 to 3.5. Teams must field players with a mix of classification values, allowing players with different functional abilities to compete together.

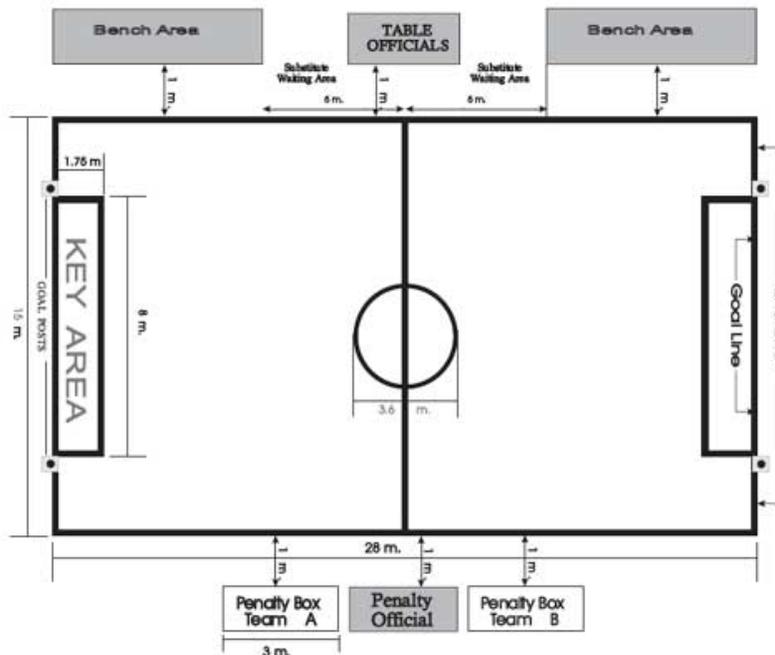
There are seven player classifications with 0.5 having the least function and 3.5 the most. Players compete in teams of four and teams must stay under an 8-point limit on the court. Low-point females (0.5-1.5) are allowed an extra 0.5 points; high point females (2.0-3.5) are allowed an additional 1.0 points. Players over the age of 45 allows for an additional 0.5 and for players over age 55, an additional 1.0 is allowed.

Wheelchair Rugby is a Paralympic sport, with twenty-six countries competing in international competition and more than ten others developing national programs.



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY OVERVIEW

CONTINUED



RULES & REGULATIONS—10 BASIC RULES

- 1. Game Duration:** Games consist of four 8-minute periods. If the score is tied at the end of regulation, 3-minute overtime periods are played until a winner is determined.
- 2. Team Size & Gender:** Teams have 4 players on the court at a time. The sport is mixed-gender.
- 3. The 8-Second Rule:** Players have 8 seconds to inbound the ball, to move the ball out of their own key, and to dribble or pass the ball.
- 4. 12-Second Backcourt Rule:** A team has 12 seconds to advance the ball from their backcourt (defensive half) over the center line into the frontcourt.
- 5. 40-Second Shot Clock:** A team has a total of 40 seconds to score a try from the moment they gain possession.
- 6. Scoring:** A goal is scored when a player in firm control of the ball crosses the opposing team's goal line with at least two wheels.
- 7. Key Restrictions:** No more than three defensive players are allowed in their own key. Offensive players may only remain in the opponent's key for 8 seconds.
- 8. Contact Rules:** Chair-to-chair contact is legal and central to the game. However, "spinning" (hitting an opponent's chair behind the rear axle to cause rotation) and all physical body-to-body contact are illegal.
- 9. Penalty Time:** A standard technical foul results in a 30-second penalty and a disqualifying foul is 40 seconds.
- 10. Classification Limit:** Players are assigned a point value (0.5 to 3.5) based on functional ability. The total value of the four players on the court cannot exceed 8.0 points (excluding female/age-based point deductions).

TEAM ROSTERS



NORTHEAST PASSAGE WILDCATS

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	PLAYER/COACH	JERSEY #
Cohl Caperelli	3	Player	42
Graeme Crowther*	2.5	Player	9
J.P. Cote Nadon	2	Player	20
Mike Hasler*	1.5	Player	1
Robbie Dudziez	1	Player	2
Sarah Leonard		Coach	
Molly Robinson		Staff	



GAYLORD WARRIORS

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	PLAYER/COACH	JERSEY #
Matt Castelluccio*	2	Player	10
Leo Biscaia	1.5	Player	7
Brian Amundsen*	1	Player	8
Armand Brunelle	2.5	Player	3
Mark Wilbourne	2	Player	4
Darren Templeton	0.5	Player	6
Craig Mills*	3.5	Player	5
Joe Stone*	2	Player	11
Reid Mulligan*	3	Player	12
Brent Moore	2.5	Player	23
Jamie Zelaya*	3	Player	2
Will Kornegay*	3.5	Player	32
Erin Bedenbaugh		Coach	
Bernadette Mackey		Support Staff	

* = 0.5 adjustment for over 45
F = 1.0 adjustment for female



THANK YOU TO OUR TOURNAMENT SPONSORS



Craig H. Neilsen
Foundation



THE GAYLORD SPORTS ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

Werth Family
FOUNDATION



The Gaylord Sports Association Warriors would like to thank Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, the Development Department, the Gaylord Classic Golf Tournament Committee, the Gaylord Gauntlet Committee and The Werth Family Foundation for their continued support of the Gaylord Sports Association.